

# The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALTOONA PA

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July/August 2026

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements, surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?"

Job 38:4-7



## **From the Pastor:**

In this passage from Job, God responds to Job's questioning. God reminds us that we would not exist or have what we have if it wasn't for God. God is the one who knows the secrets of creation, not us. God is the one who is in control of all of creation, not us. We can not compete with God for God has been here since the beginning. Sometimes we question what is going on in our lives and this passage reminds us that we don't always get to know the reasons for some things, but God knows. There are mysteries in this world that will never be answered or understood, our job is to accept the fact that we are not in control. Yet, we have a heavenly Father who is in control and God loves us beyond measure. God has given us dominion over the heavens and the earth but that does not mean that we are above, or that we can control God. We can't fathom what it took to create the universe, how then can we possibly understand it all. Including the workings of the human race. What we do know is that we have a God who loves us and cares for us and through God's grace grants us eternal life.

Peace



## Trinity Council President

### Trinity Council President

Is it just me, or does the stretch from January to when it gets nice take forever?  
But since then? It's been flying. How is it already July? I feel like June just started, and by the time we read this it'll be behind us. I'm not ready for summer To be a third over already.

I did have one neat discovery this week regarding the passage of time: my mother had a book at her house celebrating Juniata's Centennial, 1893-1993. It was so great to look through. Not just for the information it had, but-being that it is 33 years old-it's kind of a time capsule in and of itself.

There's a whole section of ads in the back from people who sponsored it, and seeing adds for Mid-State Bank, and Mellon Bank brings back so many memories. Remember the pins with the clever sayings Mellon Bank would put out for every Penn State game?

So many of the businesses are still here, but then there's an ad for Riverside where the Thomspson's pharmacy is now (I think that was an A&P before that, wasn't it?). Times change, and I guess all we can do is do our best to change with it. Acknowledging and celebrating our past without being stuck in it.

There was a section in that Centennial book about the local churches in Juniata, and there was an entire section on Trinity Lutheran. I wanted to get that in and share it with everyone. I figured you'd enjoy seeing that and maybe even learning something you didn't know about our church's history.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer! I hope it doesn't go fast for you and you're able to enjoy the moment.



# Trinity Council Meeting Minutes

## May 2026

### Attendance

Present Absent

Pastor Eli

Dave Mueller 2026

Brenda Adelman, Vice President 2027

Debbie Garritano, Secretary 2028

Ralph Grove, Treasurer

Pam Williamson, Treasurer

Ken Myers 2026

Lisa Bush 2027

Nevin Woodring 2027

Jim Buchanan 2028

Pam Mueller 2026

Sharon Kutz 2027

Nancy Honecker 2028

Erica Laich 2028

Mike Wachter 2028

### **Greetings/Devotions**

The meeting was called to order by President, Dave Mueller.

Pastor led the group in prayer.

### **Minutes from last meeting**

Minutes from the April meeting were read. Erika made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The minutes from the Council meetings will now be on the Pulse and at the back of the sanctuary.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Pam presented a written report. A new computer has been purchased and a new Quickbooks program downloaded. The old Quickbooks program is no longer available due to no licensing numbers for that program.

Pam will rebuild the program this year. Online banking and bill pay have been initiated with First National Bank, just waiting to receive confirmation, and sign in information from the bank. An email has been established for the Treasurer position.

The email is trintreas2026@gmail.com. This email is linked to Quickbooks and will be linked to online banking and bill pay. The signature card is ready. Question was raised if Pam was getting paid. Yes, she is.

### **Pastor Hess' Report**

Pastor presented a written report. She continues to visit shut-ins and hospital members. Pastor has had several funerals, some for the congregation and some as a courtesy to the funeral home. As the only active Lutheran pastor in the Altoona area, she has had several calls for funerals for people of the Lutheran faith including one for Bethany Lutheran. Many churches have been without a pastor, and other churches have recently lost their pastor through retirements.



## Trinity Council Meeting Minutes cont'd May 2026

We are wrapping up some of our ministries for the summer, Bible Study, Youth Groups, Sunday School, and Prayer Breakfast. They will take a break for the summer months, and she will focus on worship and continuing education. She had a week's vacation since the last council meeting. She spent time with her family in Gettysburg.

We had four of our young people confirmed on Pentecost Sunday: Jack Stewart, Avalyn Counterman, Madison Carathers, and Paityn Wilt.

**Property** – Adam put up grab bars in the upstairs bathroom.

**Worship and Music** – none

**Christian Ed** – Lisa met with Pastor and has a schedule of acolytes for the 10:45 service. Pastor will hold another class for acolytes.

**Stewardship** – none

**Social Ministry** – none

**Old Business** –

**Painting Outside** – Pastor talked to Randy from R&J Quality Painting and he will replace any wood that needs replaced, caulk, and paint. He will use Sherwinn Williams paint, he is bonded and insured. This will be voted on at the Congregational meeting on May 31.

**Bathrooms** – Beauchamp Plumbing and Heating gave a bid of \$20,400.00. Ken is working with McCloskey and they are coming out this week to do a thorough observation and then give us a bid. Right now, both bathrooms are working.

**Debit/credit card** – Debbie will check on the status of the card. It will be mailed to the church.

**Church Directory** – pictures will be taken after each of the services on June 20-21 and June 27-28. Dave and Pam Mueller will be taking the pictures for directory.

**New Business**

3rd Party Distributor for Gas - we have a third-party provider for gas which is costing more. Dave will get us back with Peoples Gas.

**Counting** – Brenda Adelman and Julie Weicht count in June.

**Sponsorship** – Debbie received a letter from the Juniata Civic Association requesting a sponsorship for their Juniata Community Day, July 25, 2026. Following discussions we agreed that we cannot make a donation at this time.

**Other** – Ralph told us he is having some serious medical issues. All our prayers are with Ralph.

Jim made a motion to adjourn. Mike seconded.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: May 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.



## Trinity History

My mother (Marilyn Mueller) had this Juniata Centennial book at her house, dated 1993. Inside was an article about Trinity Lutheran. I thought that was really cool!

I have attached a picture of the cover and the article from the book itself. They had write-ups of all the churches in Juniata. It was a treasure trove of local history!

*Submitted by Dave Mueller, Council President*

# JUNIATA 1893-1993 CENTENNIAL *Celebration*

August 15, 1993 to August 21, 1993





## Trinity History Cont'd

### TRINITY Lutheran CHURCH

The original Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church building was erected on the north corner of 3rd Avenue and 7th Street in 1886 at a cost of \$2,200 for the lot, building and furniture. It served as a union chapel for Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, United Brethren, and others, and continued to grow, even though there was a drop in membership when the Methodists organized their own church in 1890 at 5th Avenue and 7th Street.

The first member received into Trinity was George Miller by adult baptism in January 1887. The first infant baptisms were Margaret Grace Crider and Clara Bell Crider in 1887. The first confirmed person was Mary Fair in 1888. The first funeral was that of Gertrude Irene Campbell, October 11, 1891, age two years and two months. The first recorded wedding was that of Jesse Boyles to J.H. Thompason, October 22, 1891.

In October, 1903, the church became free of debt and the mortgage was burned, but the old church had served its day as the town grew and extended away from the railroad. A new building and a new location was needed. Lots were purchased at the corner of 5th Avenue and 6th Street, where ground was broken for the new building in March 11, 1906. At the laying of the cornerstone on June 10, 1906, the choir, which was present at the cornerstone laying of the old church twenty years before, was present again and sang the same hymns. The new edifice fully equipped cost about \$35,000. The first money for the new and present church was a twenty dollar gold piece donated by Mrs. Catherine Emfield.

The last service in the old church was on February 24, 1907, and the first service was held in the Sunday School room of the new Trinity building on March 10, 1907. The dedication service for the new church was held June 16-23, 1907. The church was the scene of many socials, suppers, and fellowship meetings, as well as regular and special services.

Noteworthy improvements have been made as conditions warranted: heating plant; organ rebuilds; chancel changes; purchase a remote parsonage and conversion of the old to Sunday School departments, then later, sale of the remote parsonage and housing allowance set up for the pastor; new corner steps, and outside ramp; new basement entrance and enclosed ramp; modern public address system; cry room for babies; office changes with computer system.

Trinity has been blessed with excellent pastors, outstanding organists and faithful choirs. Robert Swope and Leonard Thompason, who gave their lives in World War II, have been memorialized by their former Sunday School class.

The Sunday School in years past supported an orphan girl at the Loysville Home, while the congregation has supported many appeals, locally and church wide. The youth organizations have always been active groups and continue to be so.



# Trinity Vacation Bible School

**Sunday, August 2—Thursday, August 7**

**6pm-8pm**

Hi! I'm Ollie. Come join me at Trinity for VBS where you will learn to work together with God and the other challengers. And have lots of fun!



Snowball Mountain Challenge is based on Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."



## Trinity Kids Page

### Seek n Find

# OLD TESTAMENT

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| G | U | Z | A | K | E | Y | Y | S | R |
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### WORD LIST

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| ARK   | JONAH |
| CAIN  | KING  |
| EDEN  | NOAH  |
| ISAAC | RUTH  |
| JACOB | SAUL  |



## Trinity Church Picnic



**Sunday August 23**

**Picnic will begin after  
the 11:00 AM Service**

Outdoor worship followed by  
fellowship food and fun!

Donations of soda water and iced tea are appreciated. Bring donations to the church any day up to Friday August 21. Be sure to mark the donation "for picnic".

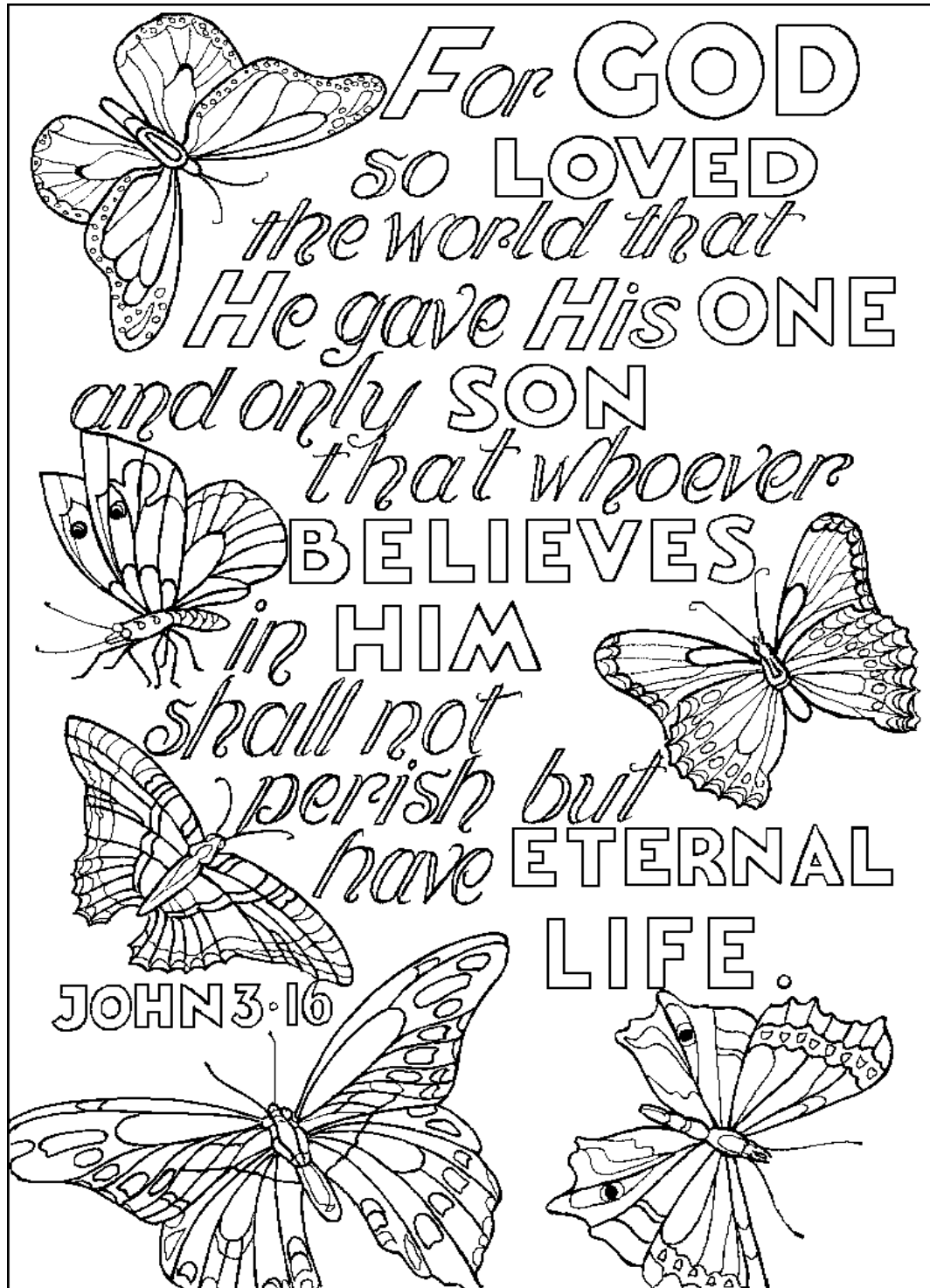
Check the bulletins in the coming weeks to see what the church social committee will be providing.

Anyone wishing to help out can contact Nancy Honecker at 814-515-2369.

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| G | A | Y | Z | H | T | C | B | U | E |
| B | H | Q | T | D | Z | R | H | Q | D |
| R | U | T | H | L | F | E | G | W | E |
| J | Y | R | Q | A | R | K | Y | G | N |
| G | U | Z | A | K | E | Y | Y | S | R |
| B | C | A | I | N | P | S | A | U | L |



## Trinity Kids Page Coloring Page



# Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

## TRINITY MEMBERS

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Ted Baird          | Jennifer Hippo   |
| Shelby Benzel      | Grant Hippo      |
| Giana Berardinelli | Bob Hofmann      |
| Terry Boyd family  | Martha Jones     |
| Ruth Brubaker      | Sharon Kutz      |
| Church Council     | Ken B. Myers     |
| Matthew Edevane    | Lisa Smearman    |
| Maizie Emswiler    | Stephanie Yeager |
| Allen Everhart     | Hamilton         |
| Ralph Grove        |                  |
| Tom Hammond        |                  |

## SHUT-IN MEMBERS

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chris Burda     | Nora Kuntsbeck  |
| William Burda   | Clair McGregor  |
| Don Corl        | Leta Veit       |
| Gary Crownover  | Effie Whitfield |
| Val Gabriel     |                 |
| Janet Gordon    |                 |
| Shannon Kratzer |                 |

## ARMED FORCES

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Jason Buck    | Lynn Miller |
| Kyle Eberhart | Ian Miller  |
| Nathan Frank  | Justin Patz |
| Ryan Maguire  | Eric Sweet  |



## FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

|                        |                            |                       |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| David Aikens           | Brandon Harper & daughters | Evan Sanders          |
| Janet & Charlie Aungst | David Harpster             | Sanders family        |
| Scott Aungst           | Donald Haslam              | Trudy Savine          |
| Tony Baker             | Carol Haslam               | Chuck Shields         |
| Ralph Barry Family     | Tom Hatch                  | Ronald Settle         |
| Carolyn Bauers         | Karly Hey                  | Daryl Seymore         |
| Kris Bennett           | Jase Hoster                | Lynn Shaffer          |
| Dana Beschler          | Eli Hughes                 | Marilyn Shannon       |
| Zayne Bowmaster        | Samantha Januska           | Gloria Shoup          |
| Chet Boyer             | Wendy Miller               | Gwen Singler          |
| Cathy Bradfield        | Nicki Kaltenbrunner        | Stephani Smithbower   |
| Terry Brown            | Barbara Keaster            | Nancy Stewart         |
| Christopher Buchanan   | Danny Kenney               | Janice Streightiff    |
| John Bush              | Jenny Kenney               | Nancy Swander         |
| Heather Calderwood     | Rebecca Kinney             | Family                |
| Jerry Chaplin          | Cindy Lamont               | Harry Taylor          |
| Christine Claycomb     | Jan Lastaglia              | Wendy Toribio         |
| Jeff Cipriani          | Heather Leader             | Beth Touzni           |
| Julian Colan           | Stewart Logan              | Lisa Turek            |
| Tracee Cole            | Lou Lohsl                  | Lisa Vaughn           |
| Scott Corl             | Joyce Longstreth           | Maureen Verzella      |
| Carl Corle             | Anthony Luciano            | Jameson Joseph "JJ"   |
| Janie Coyne            | Linda Mardula              | Williamson            |
| Zoe Amice Jason        | Steve Mardula Sr           | Patsy Wilson          |
| Cramer                 | Chelsea Martin             | Randy Wilt            |
| Lisa Dalansky          | Bill McClellan family      | Steve Wood            |
| Jorden DeFrancisco     | Patty McCulley             | Paul Wright           |
| Nancy Dionisio         | Brandon McGraw             | Tiquan Wright         |
| Gina Edevane           | Samanth McQuade            | Elsa                  |
| Larry Edwards          | Nancy Mock                 | Jessie                |
| Autumn Emswiler        | Linda Mowrer               | Junie                 |
| Phil Esper             | Bill & Penny Murphy        | Natalie               |
| Jeannette Esper        | Kyle Murray                | In spoken request "M" |
| Fink Family            | Bryan Myers                | ALBH                  |
| Skyler Franell         | Sharon Myers               | BPMC                  |
| Misty Franell          | Georgie Nauser             | KCB                   |
| Nicole Gearhart        | Wyatt Nite                 | JJM                   |
| Haley Gehret           | Zach Noel                  | RDG                   |
| Stacy Giordano         | Donna Osborn               | BMG                   |
| Billie Green           | Sammy Page                 |                       |
| Pat Griffith           | Bob Paulsen                |                       |
| Tish Grove             | Dennis Paulsen             |                       |
| Teresa Grum            | Frances Pringle            |                       |
| Thomas Hamilton        | Tommy S. Pringle           |                       |
| Zayne Hammel           | Lorenzo Recchia            |                       |
| John Hancuff           | Anita Rhodes               |                       |
| Ann Hanczaryk          | Donald Ruckinger           |                       |
| Tom Haney              | Iverson Runk               |                       |
| Madeline Hanley        | Jeanne Rutherford          |                       |
| Ann Hanezaryk          | Conner Sanders             |                       |
| John Hanezaryk family  |                            |                       |

Please know that you can add someone to our prayer list at any time by calling the church office (943-3972). If it is appropriate to remove someone from the prayer list, again, please inform the church office. Names of family and friends will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You can keep someone's name on the list by calling the church office and giving us a brief update so that we can continue to effectively pray for your loved one.



# The Orbit

July / August 2026

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## Lectionary Readings for the Months of July & August

### July 5

Zechariah 9:9-12  
Psalm 145:8-14  
Romans 7:15-25a  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### July 12

Isaiah 55:10-13  
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### July 19

Isaiah 44:6-8  
Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### July 26

1 Kings 3:5-12  
Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### Aug 2

Isaiah 55:1-5  
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

### Aug 9

1 Kings 19:9-18  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

### Aug 16

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
Psalm 67  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

### Aug 23

Isaiah 51:1-6  
Psalm 138  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

### Aug 30

Jeremiah 15:15-21  
Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

## In the Orbit This Month

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## The next Orbit Deadline is August 15

Please get your article for the newsletter by:

- Email your article to:  
**[office@trinityaltoona.com](mailto:office@trinityaltoona.com)**  
**[Dknee6@gmail.com](mailto:Dknee6@gmail.com)**
- Drop your article in the Orbit mailbox inside the Christian Education office.

### PLEASE REMEMBER:

- All articles will be included as long as space permits.
- Articles will be edited for grammar and/or clarity where needed.
- Any article turned in after the deadline will be included in the next month's Orbit.

***Thank You!***